

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 06934 311802Z

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ACTION MC-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 DODE-00 EB-07 NSAE-00

TRSE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 L-03 /033 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4578

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 6934

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI BE

SUBJECT: END-USE CHECKS OF LOUIS GHEMAR, E.J. BINET, AND
EDGARD J.M. LEMMENS

REF: STATE 177619, 138650, 105463 AND 105464; BRUSSELS 5159

1. EMBASSY INQUIRIES THUS FAR SUGGEST DESIRABILITY OF
SEEKING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BEFORE FURNISHING RECOMMENDA-
TION ON THESE TWO CASES. THE FOLLOWING REMARKS THUS
CONSTITUTE AN INTERIM REPORT BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH
BELGIAN LICENSING AUTHORITIES. WE ARE ASKING
POLICE AUTHORITIES CONFIRMATION, CLARIFICATION OR CORRECTION
OF RELEVANT POINTS AS DESCRIBED BELOW.

2. EDGARD J.M. LEMMENS (STATE 105463). SUBJECT IS BONA
FIDE ARMS DEALER AND RECEIVED BELGIAN INTERNATIONAL IMPORT
CERTIFICATE USA 5779 AS STATED REFTEL. THAT CERTIFICATE
MAY HAVE EXPIRED, BUT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR IMPORT OF ARMAMENTS
OR MUNITIONS INTO BELGIUM; IT IS ISSUED TO MEET REQUIREMENTS
OF FOREIGN EXPORTING COUNTRIES AT REQUEST OF BELGIAN IMPORTING
FIRM. BELGIANS REQUIRE IMPORT LICENSE TO PERMIT ENTRY.
IN LEMMENS' CASE, LICENSE WAS ISSUED FOR ITEMS CITED REFTEL,
BUT WAS TURNED DOWN FOR ADDITIONAL ITEM HE REQUESTED,
NAMELY 101 MACHINE PISTOLS PLUS SPARES. REASON FOR REFUSAL
ON THAT ITEM IS NOT KNOWN, BUT IT PROBABLY HAS NO BEARING
ON QUESTION OF END-USE, SINCE THESE LICENSES AND CERTIFICATES
ARE NORMALLY ISSUED ROUTINELY AND WITHOUT INVESTIGATION BY
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 06934 311802Z

BELGIAN AUTHORITIES. IN PRESENT CASE LEMMENS IS ACTING

ENTIRELY AS PRIVATE ARMS DEALER AND NOT ON BEHALF OF BELGIAN GOVERNMENT. FYI. LEMMENS IS BELIEVED TO BE THE SUBJECT OF A POLICE INQUIRY AT THE PRESENT TIME. HE IS ALSO BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED RECENTLY. WE HOPE TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION ON THESE MATTERS FROM BELGIAN POLICE. END FYI.

3. LOUIS GHEMAR (STATE 105464). SUBJECT IS NOT AN ARMS IMPORTER. IT IS A GENERAL AGENCY FOR CLEARING GOODS THROUGH CUSTOMS, AND IS PRESUMABLY ACTING IN THAT CAPACITY FOR BINET (SEE BELOW).

4. E.J. BINET (STATE 105464). SUBJECT IS BONA FIDE ARMS DEALER, ONE OF LARGEST IN BELGIUM. BELGIAN LICENSING AUTHORITY HAS NO RECORD OF REQUEST FOR IMPORT LICENSE FOR US-MANUFACTURED ARMS IN 1975, BUT SEVERAL IN 1974. WAS ANY BELGIAN DOCUMENT OR FILE CITED IN BINET OR SHERWOOD INTL. EXPORT CORP. REQUEST (MC CASE 95167/SHERWOOD)? FYI. BINET RECENTLY SUFFERED THEFT OF SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITY OF ARMS FROM ITS STOCKS. SOME ITEMS WERE LATER RECOVERED IN FRANCE, APPARENTLY AFTER PASSING THROUGH LEMMENS (PARA 2 ABOVE). WE ARE SEEKING MORE INFORMATION FROM BELGIAN POLICE. END FYI.

5. IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE, WE RECOMMEND THAT DECISION RE APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THESE TRANSACTIONS BE DELAYED UNTIL EMBASSY COMPLETES ITS INVESTIGATION. FIRESTONE

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Errors: N/A
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